The Builder.

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ORFOLK, like Warwickshire, of which we spoke last week, is studded with structures, which interest not only the architectural antiquary but the practical architect, inasmuch as they afford numerous examples and hints for modern application. The Archæological Institute met in the capital of this county last week, and continued their labours there during a part of this; and we propose, as in the case of the "Association," to give some notes of the principal places visited, and the heads of such of the papers read as illustrate these places, or contain information likely to interest a large portion of our readers. We do not intend to chronicle the names of all the distinguished persons who attended, the profuse hospitality which was offered to them on various sides, or even the purely antiquarian matters which came before them for discussion. The question whether Norwich, or Caistor, be the *Venta Icenorum* of the Romans,* argued in favour of the former by Mr. Hudson Gurney, notices of ancient monastic mortuary rolls, ably as they were written by Mr. John Gough Nichols, histories of Saxon kings, and all matters of this kind, must be left to other hands, the architectural antiquities alone would afford us more matter than we have space to include.

St. Andrew's Hall, where the introductory meeting was held (the bishop of the diocese being in the chair), was originally the nave and aisles of a large perpendicular church, built at the commencement of the fifteenth century, and has an open timber roof. It belonged to a monastery of Dominican friars, of which there are some curious remains now used as the workhouse. The election, (when, by the way, Mr. Peto, one of the "craft," was returned at the head of the poll to represent the ancient city in Parliament,) afterwards closed this apartment against the Institute, and forced them to take refuge in the public library and the *Guildhall*.

The latter building was erected quite at the commencement of the fifteenth century (1407-13), and is chiefly remarkable externally as a specimen of flint work,—a mode of construction very prevalent in Norwich and the neighbourhood. The council chamber here retains the wood fittings of about the time of King Henry VIII. This, and the adjoining apartment, also contain some curious portraits of past officers.†

NORWICH CATHEDRAL

is a very interesting structure, rather more than 400 feet long, with a tower and spire 313 feet high. The greater part of it belongs, as will be seen hereafter, to the Norman period, and internally is in a good state of repair. Some years ago it had fallen into a deplorable condition, but since the advent of the present dean much has been done, as may be supposed when we say, that from twenty-five to thirty thousand pounds have been spent in the repair of it within these last fifteen years. The works are still in progress under the direction of Mr. Brown, the architect to the dean and chapter.*

Professor Willis gave a discourse on the cathedral in the public library, and illustrated it by a number of diagrams to shew the general arrangement, and enable him to point out the date of the different parts. We proceed to give the heads of his discourse from our own notes.

It had been his lot, he said, in the division of labour made by the institute, to illustrate the cathedral in each of the towns they had visited. All had been distinguished by some peculiarity; Canterbury, by the existence of important documentary evidence; and Winchester, by the curious conversion which had been made of Norman work into perpendicular. In Norwich, much the same alteration had been commenced, but was not carried out; its most valuable peculiarity, however, was as it related to the inquiry into the existence of Saxon architecture in England. Those who had difficulty in believing that there was none, could attribute the earlier parts of the other cathedrals to the Saxon time, Saxon buildings having originally occupied their site; but in Norwich, no doubt could be raised, as the see was removed from Thetford only in the time of William Rufus, and the cathedral then erected where no other building existed. The original structure then was purely Norman, yet many parts of it were as rude as that which was called Saxon in other places.

There had been very little alteration in the plan; it consists of nave, tower, transepts, and a very considerable chancel or presbytery, with aisles to each. The chancel terminates with an abeis with an aisle around it, known always as the "procession path," and various chapels of peculiar form branching out of it. The Norman part of the cathedral is of two periods, he said, as was shewn by the bases of the columns and by the zigzag ornament around the arches of the later part of it. He could prove that the zigzag was not introduced till very late in the Norman style. The choir was usually supposed to be that portion of the building wholly east of the transepts; ritually speaking, the term distinguished simply that part where the monks sat to sing, and which in this case included the space under the central tower and a part of the nave. The more eastern portion was appropriated to the priests, and was called the presbytery. The episcopal throne was originally against the *end* of the eastern part, a peculiarity confined to Norwich, and was so high up, as to be upon the wall which divided the presbytery from the "processional walk;" its remains were visible. The rood loft, he considered, was originally at some distance down the nave. The aisles were formed into chapels; we had no conception how greatly these buildings were cut up and divided by screens and enclosures,—obstructions which perhaps had more effect in leading to the reformation than more important matters.

It was now time to speak of the written history of the cathedral. It was founded by Bishop Herbert de Losinga in 1096, who nearly completed it, together with the monastery and bishop's palace, concerning which he would speak hereafter. The next historical record was, that John of Oxford finished the church that Herbert began; and in his time, 1171, the church was burnt. The lecturer said it was amusing to see how the antiquaries of a few years ago amplified their authorities: Blomefield was of this class; he interpreted Latin statements his own way, and so asserted things for which he had no grounds. In 1272, the monks and citizens being on very bad terms, the latter rose, burnt the records, and sacked the monastery. Documents prove that the church was miraculously preserved, and the lady chapel burnt, but Blomefield by some accident states this *vice versa*. In 1278 the church was re-dedicated, and he ought here to speak of the gateways, but as Mr. Britton had promised them a paper on that subject, he would pass them by. To this gentleman (he would take occasion to say) he and all other antiquaries and architects were greatly indebted, and he was most happy to have the opportunity, there in his presence, of acknowledging it.

In 1299 considerable repairs were made to the tower, the spire of which, probably, was at that time of wood. He now came to a point which had not been thoroughly investigated, namely, the cause of the present appearance of the choir,—where the Norman work was seen only in the middle part of the walls,—the triforium. The upper part and lower part were both of later character. On the 15th of January, 1361-2, a furious hurricane did much mischief in various parts, damaging, according to Holinshed, many mighty buildings. On this occasion the steeple of the cathedral under notice was blown down, and in its fall materially damaged the presbytery. The ancient rolls, preserved in the treasury of the cathedral, shew that considerable outlay for repairs was made in 1364 and 1369; and it was then that the present clerestory was constructed under Bishop Percy. The vaulting was done subsequently, and so were the flying buttresses externally: these latter not being needed till the vaulting was put up, the thrust of which they were intended to withstand. The style of the clerestory was between decorated and perpendicular, and having a precise date, was a very valuable example.

The next event was a conflagration in 1463, when the spire being struck by lightning, set fire, probably, to the roof of the nave. It might be taken as a principle, that the mediæval ancients never repaired or altered buildings out of wantonness: when any accident happened, then they enlarged or rebuilt. The wood roof of the nave, in the present case, being destroyed, they put up a stone vault, and afterwards carried it on to the choir, the date of the vault, which may be called 1496. At this same time, the lower part of the choir was altered to the perpendicular style. The present spire was of later date. And here he would conclude his remarks on the cathedral until he met them within its walls.

He had now to speak of the monastic buildings surrounding the cathedral, and he pointed the attention of his audience to a plan of them which he had prepared. This was a matter to which he had given much attention at Canterbury, where his views had been borne out by an ancient plan afterwards discovered. Great confusion had been caused by the haste of the early antiquaries. Whittaker, one of the earliest in this department, had described Fountains Abbey, in Yorkshire, and laid it down as a type of all others. Succeeding writers had not investigated for themselves, and had perpetuated errors. We must pursue a

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* Thus disposed of by a well known old distich:—
"Caistor was a city when Norwich was none,
And Norwich was built of Caistor stone."

† "A tower, which had been added to the original building, fell down and destroyed the roof of the Council-chamber, which was restored, and other repairs made, in 1334, to which period the present fittings may safely be referred. The wood-work is ornamented with the linen panel, and with small figures of a lion, grey-hound, and dragon, used as poppies. In the panels are the arms of Henry VIII., Norwich, the Mercers, &c. George's Company, the Grocers, and Merchant Adventurers. The windows are filled with painted glass of different periods, with several shields of arms: among these occur, the Berrierers, the City of Norwich; those of Robert Browne, mayor in 1823; the rebus of Bishop Goodwin; a merchant's mark impaling the Grocers' Company; and the arms of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, who was connected with this county."—*Notes of the Churches, &c. of Norwich; by a Member.*

* Mr. Brown built Lee Church, near Blackheath, and several others. Amongst them St. Mark's, at Lakenham, on the Southern side of Norwich, where the mouldings, water-tables, &c., are of moulded brick. The face of the walls is of flint-work with white brick quoins. Mr. Kerr, the clever author of the "Newlands Decorated," has recently joined Mr. Brown in partnership.

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